

UTILIZING PRIVATE MONEY FOR PUBLIC GOOD: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION IN ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS FOUR: QUALITY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Purpose - Education around the globe is in a crisis. Over 263 million children and young people who are of school ages are out of school, with these number about 60 million of the children are currently leaving in dangerous areas around the world. Van Fleet & Steer (2017) state that if these crises are not curtailed by 2030, there will be over 800 million children out of school. Nigeria is not exempted from this global crisis facing education, as the country currently accounts for the highest out of school children in the of Sub Saharan Africa. Officially this number stands at 10million while the unofficial figure stands at 17 million (Lawal, 2016).

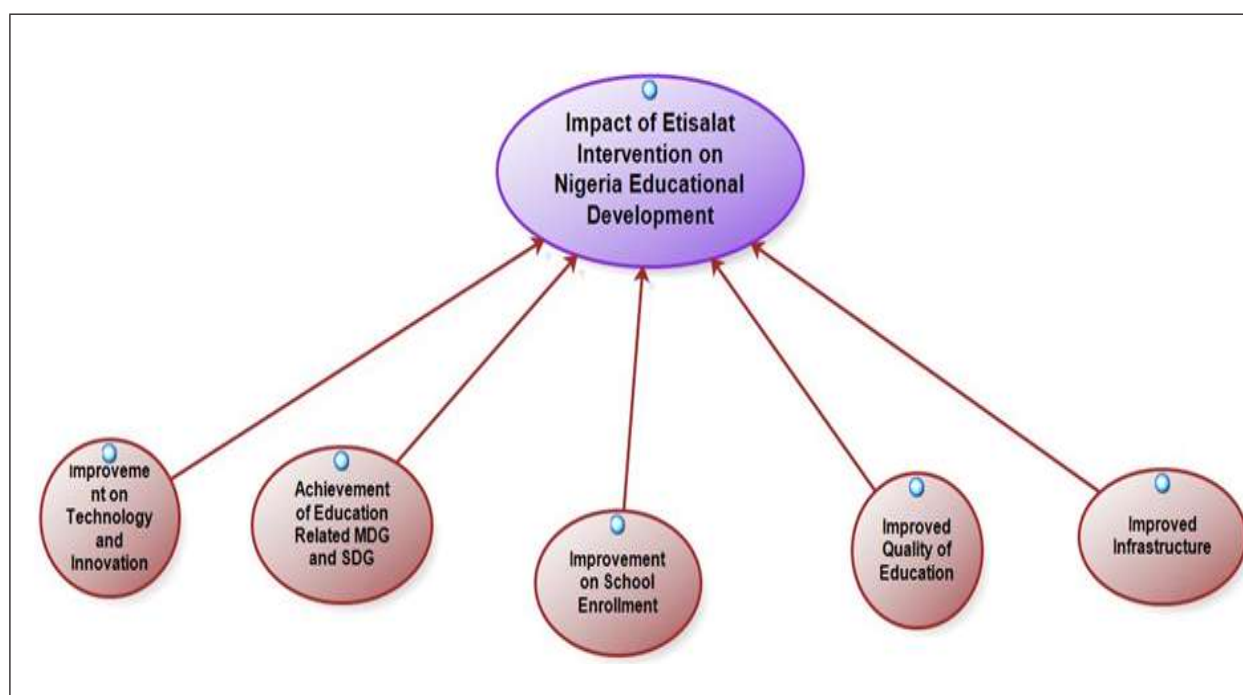
The system is characterized by lack of learning equipment, skilled teachers, physical infrastructure, insufficient funding among other problems. This has shown that government has not been able to provide quality education for it populace as enshrined in goal four of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This has made it imperative for non-state actors such as Multinational Corporations to intervene to aid states in the achievement of the SDG goals, and this is a collaboration between countries and MNCs to achieve this goal are enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Global compact (Bello, Othman & Shariffuddin, 2017). The government of Nigeria have partnered with states and non-state actors such as intergovernmental organisation such as World Bank, UNESCO, MNCs, IGO among others to help improve the standard of education in Nigeria. However, these have not sufficed which has made it imperative for partnership with MNCs. The objective of this paper is therefore to assess the impact of Etisalat CSR intervention in Nigeria's education sector with the view of assisting the government in the achievement of SDG 4.

Methodology - This paper utilises qualitative method, with specific reference to phenomenological approach. A phenomenological inquiry entails an attempt to understand individual's perspectives, perception and understand a phenomenon or situation. (Merriam,2002; Sekeran & Bougie, 2013) In consonance with the qualitative inquiry, the interview was conducted with fifteen informants which included corporate executives from Etisalat, government officials, heads of primary and secondary schools, lectures at tertiary institutions, beneficiaries of Etisalat intervention, among other stakeholders. In an analysis of the transcript of interview NVivo version 10 software to

come up with models based on themes from research objectives, with the following sub-themes improvement on technology and innovation, improved infrastructure, improvement on school enrolment, improved quality of education. The primary data was complemented with secondary data such as journals internet sources, books, annual reports and government reports.

Findings - The findings (or results) of the work should be explicitly described and illustrated. Supporting figures, tables and images of the results (no more than one figure and one table) may be included in the extended abstract. If the study hasn't resulted in significant results then the author(s) should provide a brief overview of expected results along the lines of the hypothesis set.

Analysis of the data from the interview transcript provides five themes which include improvement on technology and innovation, improved infrastructure, an improvement on school enrolment, enhanced quality of education, and achievement of education-related SDG's.



Keywords: Multinational corporation, corporate social responsibility, education, development and etisalat.

CONCLUSIONS

The paper concludes Etisalat CSR in Nigeria education sector has been geared towards the achievement of SDG goal 4 of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote learning opportunities for all. From the informant responds it was agreed that Etisalat CSR has impacted on infrastructural development, an improvement in technology & innovation, improvement in school enrollment, improved quality of education among others. The paper concludes that there is a need for the Nigeria government to partner with Etisalat and other MNCs in Nigeria to drive educational development. The article is significant in the sense that it has contributed to the body

of literature on the emerging role of MNCs in societal development through direct intervention thereby allowing the utilisation of private money for public good such as educational development or provision of quality education.

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